

“UNDERSTANDING THE FIVE FUNCTIONAL GIFTS TO THE CHURCH - Part 3”

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INTRO: Jesus gave 5 functional gifts to the church to equip the saints for ministry and bring the saints to maturity (Eph. 4:11-12). [See “FIVE FUNCTIONAL GIFTS CHART” handout]

FIVE-FUNCTIONAL GIFT PRINCIPLES

1. These gifts are not a vertical top-down hierarchy.
2. These gifts have different spheres (2Cor. 10:12-14).
3. These gifts should be properly connected & related.
4. These gifts all still exist today (Eph. 4:11)!
 - A. Jesus gave these gifts AFTER His ascension (Eph. 4:8)!
 - B. There are about 16 post-ascension apostles mentioned.
 - C. These gifts are God-called and confirmed by others.

LOCAL CHURCH DISTINCIVES

1. Any of these gifts can effectively lead a local church.
 - A. Early church was led more by apostles than pastors.
2. The gift leading determines vision, culture & focus.
3. Each gift has common strengths & weaknesses.
4. Each church & believer should be impacted by each gift.
5. Each church and believer have a 5-functional gift profile.

The Equipping of the Saints for the Work of Ministry:

1. Teacher – all saints should be able to make disciples.
2. Pastor – all saints should be able to care for others.
3. Evangelist – all saints should be able to share their faith.
4. Prophet – all saints should move in spiritual gifts.
5. Apostle – all involved in kingdom expansion locally & globally.

The Five Functional Gifts are reflected in the marketplace.

An Apostolic & Prophetic Foundation vs. A Pastoral Foundation (Eph. 2:20). [see handout]

Summary: The church as a boot camp vs. the church as a hospital. Boot camps have medical, but not as the goal.

CONCLUSION: All 5 functional gifts are needed in the church and in the life of every saint to be fully equipped for ministry and maturity!